

Handle textiles, furniture, ceramic and glass objects

Handling textiles

- Examine for areas of fragility
- Support evenly across the length of the item, using a tray where possible
- Do not pick up costume by the shoulders
- If carrying items on a hanger, support the length by draping over arms
- If carrying a rolled textile, carry via the areas of the roller which extend beyond the length of the textile

Handling furniture

- Do not lift via protrusions, chair arms or backs, or table tops
- Remove drawers or secure with cotton ties
- Secure doors with cotton ties or lock them
- Place keys in labelled bags and keep them in a safe place
- Remove any loose fittings such as finials or glass tops
- Lift chairs via the seat rail (placing hands under the seat)
- Lift tables from the legs

Handling metals

- Use nitrile gloves to prevent tarnishing/corrosion from the oils in your hands

Handling ceramics and glass

- Remove lids
- Use disposable surgical gloves (commonly nitrile); cotton gloves make it hard to get a secure grip on slippery surfaces

You might also like:

How to: Handle museum objects

Museums & Galleries of NSW

<https://mgnsw.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/collection-care/handle-museum-objects/>

Objects Handling Basics

Connecting to Collections' useful discussion about when to wear gloves and what type to choose

<https://connectingtocollections.org/objecthandlingrecording/>

Museum Note #6: Handling Museum Objects

Heritage & Libraries Branch, Ontario Ministry of Culture

https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/pdf/handling_museum_objects.pdf

Handling, Packing and Shipping

National Parks Service, Museum Handbook

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/museums/upload/MHI_Ch6_HandlingPackingShipping.pdf